

Growing Together

**January
2024**

Cross Lutheran Church & School

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Our mission:

***Bring people to
Christ.***

***Teach Christians
to be disciples.***

***Send disciples to
reach the world.***



Inside this issue:

Preparing for Worship	3
Celebrate	3
School News	4
Memorials	5
Council Minutes	6
Financial	11
Calendar	13

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Feast of the Epiphany — January 6, 2024

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,
behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,
‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?’*

For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

- Matthew 2:1-2 -

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and since that time we have been able to see God’s hand in the movement of all His creation. The stars have been used from the beginning to tell time and to recognize the order of the seasons. Along with the practical reasons for studying the night sky, changes in the stars were often interpreted as signs and omens foretelling of things happening in the world. Some magi in the East noticed the sudden appearance of a new star; they had knowledge of the promises and prophecies of Hebrew scripture and recognized that the star pointed to the birth of a new king in Israel. They traveled great distances to find the baby and worship him.

God created the heavens and earth, so it is no surprise that He would use a star to guide those wise men to Bethlehem. God is intimately involved in every aspect of His creation which he uses to manifest His promises before the whole world. The wise men followed a star that seemed to move as they moved, guiding them to the place where they would find the child. They traveled a dangerous and difficult journey to worship this new king based on a sign in the heavens.

This was a miraculous visitation, but the wonder continues as we see the gifts that the wise men delivered to the newborn king. The gold had a practical purpose; it would be used to care for Jesus in the world, especially during the escape to Egypt. The gold also represented Jesus’ rule and authority as King over all God’s creation. The frankincense was a sign of Jesus’ ministry, a foreshadowing of his role as High Priest when He would present Himself as the perfect lamb to atone for the sins of the world. Myrrh was an expensive ointment that was used only for the anointing of the dead. We are invited to join the wise men in worshiping the Son of God, our King, Priest and Savior, the fulfillment of all God’s promises.

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CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
NALC WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 3, 2023
9-2:30
All congregational members

Please join the call committee and church council to pray and collaborate as we develop our church profile. This is everyone's opportunity to be directly involved during the call process. We will work together and share ideas about our church family, school, outreach, community, and local resources that may appeal to a pastor considering a call. Everyone may provide input on what talents and abilities we would be looking for in a pastoral leader for our congregation.

This event will be held on February 3, 2023 from 9am until 2:30pm in the church. Lunch will be provided. The work shop will be facilitated by Pastor Paul Gruetter. The information gathered that day will be collated by the call committee and submitted to the NALC as a notification that we are in need of a Pastor.

There is a signup sheet in the back of the church.
Please mark your calendars and be part of this important process.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

The Call Committee:

Matt Zimmerman, Kathy Azarovitz, John Smith, Carol Diener, Trevor Carriveau and Wes Trowbridge

ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINES

- ◆ Deadline for acct. books for audit - 1/8/24 (Monday)
- ◆ Audit Committee to meet & review books – week of 1/8/24
- ◆ Account books picked-up from office – week of 1/15/24
- ◆ Deadline for all reports – 1/22/24 (Monday)
- ◆ Annual Report available 1/28/24 (Sunday)
- ◆ Annual Meeting 2/11/24 (Sunday)

Celebrate



- 3 Lisa Gray
- 3 Phil Schadd
- 4 Paul Schadd
- 5 Shirley Schuette
- 7 Kyle Yackle
- 10 Ken Licht
- Barb Degg
- 11 Michelle Walsh
- Jessica Peterson
- 14 Anna House
- 17 Karen Anklam
- 19 Dale Schuette
- 20 Denny Smith
- 21 Vickie Forster
- 23 Gene Parsell
- 24 Brenda Smith
- Cordelia Trost

- Greg Yackle
- 26 Lori McKenzie
- Alice Trost
- 28 Heather Koroleski
- 29 Dave Elftman
- Connie Herford
- Tonja Nelson
- 31 Gary Forster



- 27 Jerome & Marlene Gram mentz, 45 yrs.



THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Beth Elston, Kari Spearing, Brandon Fritz, Barb Eidt, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Michael Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, Dave Licht, Cordelia Trost, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyerck, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Anna House, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Robert Krzeszewski, Dolores Elftman, Martin Knost.

THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nicholas Swanson (U.S. Air Force), Michael Cox (U. S. Navy), and Alex Moyer (U.S. Marines)



Preparing for Worship

January 7 - Baptism of Our Lord

1R – Genesis 1:1-5, P – Psalm 29, 2R – Romans 6:1-11, G – Mark 1:4-11

January 14– Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1R - 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), P – Psalm 139:1-10, 2R – 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, G – John 1:43-51

January 21– Third Sunday after the Epiphany

1R - Jonah 3:1-5,10, P - Psalm 62, 2R - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (32-35), G - Mark 1:14-20

January 28 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

1R - Deuteronomy 18:15-20, P – Psalm 111, 2R – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, G – Mark 1:21-28



From the Desk of...Kelly Gebauer

Merry CHRISTmas! It is a joy and a blessing to be part of the Cross Lutheran School family. I look forward to everyday beginning in the 3rd through 5th grade classroom where I assist Mrs. Shupe and then in the afternoons I teach 6th through 8th grade language arts and social studies. It is also exciting each morning to try and figure out where our Advent Angel is hiding this December.

The 3rd graders and I have recently finished reading, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo. It is a touching story with good life lessons about friendship and dealing with sorrow. The 4th and 5th graders and I are currently reading, *Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?*, by Jean Fritz. Seeing history from King George III's perspective is quite interesting and helps us have a well rounded view of our history.

In the afternoons in 6th through 8th grade we are just finishing up reading, *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. It has been enriching to make connections through all the fantasy and adventure of Percy Jackson to ancient Greece and its culture. It's a privilege to teach social studies with a Biblical perspective and pray for our government leaders both locally and globally.

I also participated in my first Christmas Fair. Watching the students pick and purchase gifts for others was a heart-filled and fun-filled experience. 'Tis the season of giving. I especially enjoyed it when the older students helped the younger students with their shopping.

Then I had the opportunity to catch one of the first 3rd-6th grade boys' basketball games of the season at the Zion Lutheran Basketball Fun Day. It was so much fun watching them play and cheering them on. I heard the girls also had a great time with their games as well. I look forward to hopefully watching some more basketball games in the new year.

I'm looking forward to the Christmas Palooza performances and the new year where we get to continue to learn to stand firm and use the whole armor of God.

January Calendar

1/03	School resumes
1/15	No School
1/19	End of 2nd grading period 1/2 day of school
1/27	CEA Mother/Son & Daddy/ Daughter events





In memory of Dorothy Henne, for Cross Cemetery fund:

Ken & Betty Licht

In memory of Lydia Decker, for Cross Building fund:

Mike & Lorraine LePage

In memory of Linda Keefer, for Cross Lutheran School:

Tom & Bernice Shupe



OCC Updates

Cross Lutheran delivered 248 filled shoebox gifts to Bay Shore Camp in Sebawaing on Saturday, December 18 where they began their journey from the processing center to needy children around the world. We recently found out that our shoeboxes are en route to Panama this year! Pray for the children who receive them that they may feel God's love in our simple gifts! Time to start collecting for next year!



Worship and Music Ministry

December 5, 2023

Members present: Mike Sting, Peg McCrimmon, John House – Trustee, Karen Schuette – Chair.

*Continued discussion on the various worships planned for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Liturgy setting #5 – *Bread of Life* will be used at least throughout the Christmas season.

*Discussed the possibility of using Beth's YouTube piano recordings during worship. Tabled until January.

***MOTION** by John and seconded by Peg to use the real candles during the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve worship with LED votives available for children. **Motion carried.**

***Next meeting** – Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 3 pm.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SECOND CROSS LUTHERAN SCHOOL CEA WINTER DINNER AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH 2024

4:30PM – 11PM

THE PIGEON EVENT CENTER

311 S Main St – Pigeon

4:30pm: DOORS OPEN & SILENT AUCTION BIDDING BEGINS

6:00pm: DINNER WITH LIVE AUCTION ITEMS TO FOLLOW

PRE-PURCHASED TICKETS REQUIRED

PLEASE CONTACT

RITA HERFORD: 989-553-1550

KIM LEIPPRANDT: 517-490-3418 ♦ LINDSAY STACHOWIAK: 989-714-6582

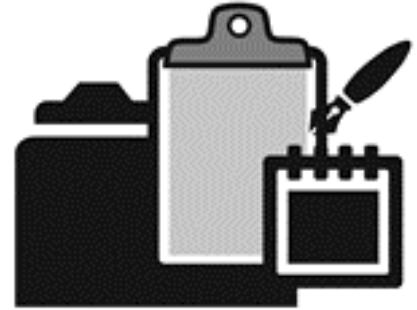
TICKETS donation of \$50

Dinner & Drinks included

Donations are being accepted until January 12th; contact a Committee Member listed above if interested in donating

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023



Church Council
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, Matt Zimmerman, at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Matt Zimmerman, Norm Nelson, Kristy Carriveau, John House, Jason Shaw, Dick Koehler Nancy Schuette, Kim Sears. Al Licht was absent.

Guests: Phil Schadd, David Faupel, Miki Thick

DEVOTIONS: David Faupel shared a devotion and prayer.

AGENDA: *Kim Sears made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Jason Shaw. Motion carried.*

MINUTES: *Jason Shaw made motion to approve the November Minutes, seconded by Dick Koehler. Motion carried.*

STAFF REPORTS:

Cross School: David Faupel, Principal

- 12/8- Christmas fair
- 12/13- Christmas lunch
- 12/13- Christmas caroling with church and potluck
- 12/19- Christmas program 1:00 & 7:00
- Christmas Break: 12/21-1/2/24

Daycare: Miki Thick, filling in for Jessica Swartz

- Enrollment: Preschool- 20, Toddler-8 , Infant- 6, Latchkey-21
- New playground equipment will be stored at the parsonage until it can be installed when school is out

GUEST REPORTS:

School Board, Kevin Stachowiak

- Recommend converting family room to 7th/ 8th grade classroom for the 2024/25 school year
- School Winter Dinner Auction Fundraiser tickets will be sold after church service on 1/7 and 1/21

Motion was made by John House to accept the sale of tickets, seconded by Kim Sears, motion carried.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Matt Zimmerman, President – Nothing to report

Kristy Carriveau, Secretary – Nothing to report

Kim Sears, Treasurer:

- Reported that income is under budget by \$21,749.87. *Motion was made by John House to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Nancy Schuette, motion carried.*

(Continued on page 7)

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT:

Dick Koehler, School Board President

- Nothing to report

MINISTRY REPORTS – TRUSTEES

Property: Al Licht, absent

- Nothing to report

Music & Worship: John House

- Real candles will be used during the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service

Stewardship: Norm Nelson

- Benevolence giving is down
- Envelopes are here and will be passed out on time

Mission Outreach: Nancy Schuette

- Researching new chairs for overflow
- Sandie Haley and Kay Schuette visited shut ins and gave out Advent Calendars

Parish Life: Nancy Schuette

- Looking for help with coffee hour
- Helping with Caroling

Youth & Education: Jason Shaw

- 12/24 is the Children's Christmas Program at 9:30 am

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nominating Committee members to be contacted
- Call committee- Congregational meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3rd 2024 at 9:00 am- 2:30 pm. Pastor Paul Grutter will lead the day.


NEW BUSINESS:

- Budget meeting was December 10th after the service, the budget was passed
- Gift cards for school staff will be purchased for Christmas gifts *Motion was made by Dick Koehler to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Kim Sears, motion carried.*

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristy Carriveau



DISASTER QUILTERS

Sent: 304 Quilts
57 Layettes
78 Stuffed animals

For the year of 2023



What? 2024 already? Time may seem like it is flying by, but thankfully the Word of God never changes. That word is proclaimed in our church and school, and hopefully in your homes, too! *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”* Deuteronomy 6:6-7

We have had great attendance in Sunday School lately. I am so thankful for all who sign up to teach our children to *“love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”*. Parents and grandparents, **keep bringing them to Sunday School**. It is not just preparation for a Christmas program. Sunday School is learning about God’s love for us and building a foundation in God’s Word. Kids learn about God’s work of salvation through Jesus. We want God’s Word to be impressed upon their hearts.

We want you to talk about God when you sit at home or ride in your car or when you lie down and when you get up. There are so many opportunities for dialog and prayer. Take advantage of those opportunities!

Coming up on Sunday, January 7 will be an opportunity for fellowship, food, and fun with our youth! **All are invited to play and teach our youth how to play Euchre**. Last year’s event was a blast and the winning team included a youth who had just learned the game that day. Please join us on **January 7 from 4:30-6pm** in the gym! You are welcome to bring a treat to share if you’d like.

As we enter 2024, be engaged in some way with our children and youth. Show them the love of the Lord. Greet them. Pray for them. Speak with them. Love them. Teach them all God has commanded.

In His Love,

Gwynne Barry

Ministry of Youth and Education

Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes from:

December 7, 2023

(To be approved at the January meeting)

Members present: David Faupel, Kevin Stachowiak, Eileen Johnson, Katie Wilson, Dick Koehler, Kevin Trost **Absent:** Rebecca Yackle

The meeting was called to order by Dick Koehler at 5:30 pm. Prayer was led by David Faupel

Agenda: A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Katie to accept the agenda. It was carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Kevin S., seconded by Katie to approve the minutes of November 2, 2023 meeting. The motion passed.

Guests: No guests

Treasurers' Reports:

School Balance: \$ 79,510.22

CEA/PTO Balance: Not available

Hot Lunch: \$8,148.53

A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Katie to accept the Treasurers' Reports.

The motion was carried.

CEA President's Report:

Katie reported that the Christmas Fair will be December 8. Their next CEA/PTO meeting will be the 8th of December.

Principal's Report:

- Students Registered for 2023-2024 are now 65. **DK:1 KDG: 10 1st:10 2nd: 9 3rd: 8 4th: 5 5th: 8 6th: 6 7th: 3 8th:5**
- The Robotics Club did well at their first meet.
- Holiday lunch is December 13
- CEA/Cross Church caroling is December 13
- Music Palooza is December 19
- Christmas break is December 21 to January 2, 2024

Old Business:

- Statement of Faith was passed by Council.
- Katie made a motion for a recommendation to Council that the Family Room be used by 7th-8th grade students for a classroom in the 2024-2025 year on a one-year basis. It was seconded by Kevin T. Kevin S. will present this to Council. The motion was carried.
- Kevin S. made a motion to recommend to Council that the classrooms be appropriately staffed in 2024-2025. This was seconded by Katie and passed.

New Business:

- David discussed applying for a School Safety Grant.
- Tuition increases for 2024-2025 were discussed.

Kevin S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Katie and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The date of the next meeting will be January 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.



Cross Lutheran School

Statement of Faith

(Approved by Church Council on 11/7/23)

We believe that the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. In addition to the Bible, only resources and teaching that align with what the Bible says should be taught. We also believe in the tenants of the Apostles' Creed.

We believe in creation; that man and woman were created by the direct act of God and in the image of God. We believe that all men are born in sin. We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and the shedding of His blood on the Cross as an atonement for our sins.

We believe that God ordained marriage and family as a foundational institution of society. We further believe that the only Biblically sanctioned marriage is the public union of one man and one woman. We believe that marriage is intended for a lifetime and that any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as a male or female human being. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. An individual's gender (male or female) is their unchangeable biological sex as determined by genetics at conception. The Lord teaches us in His Word that sexuality is a gift granted by God. Deviations from His perfect design demonstrate the brokenness of our world.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity following the example of Jesus Christ.

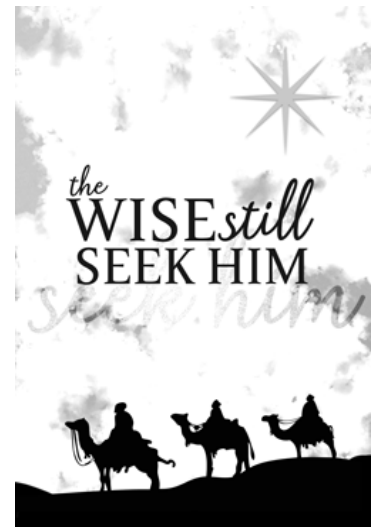
The Rising Star

Find the 37 **bold** words from Matthew 2:4-10 (ESV)

D E R A W R M W N H F R D D R
 H E X O P C U R I E O I K R E
 E C R C H P O L I S L N Z E J
 R D R I E B E H E I E E A H O
 O O L A U E C A G R F T S P I
 D D L U E Q D E R P D T S E C
 G N I R B S N I R E S I E H E
 A S C E R T A I N E D R M S D
 T T N P L C E O R G V W B W L
 A A E Y H S M J O Y L O L O O
 E R M R T M J U D E A Y I R H
 R Y I S U S E B I R C S N S E
 G S B S E C R E T L Y Z G H B
 T M E H E L H T E B H G N I K
 L E A R S I P R O P H E T P K



And **assembling** all the chief priests and scribes of the people, [Herod] **inquired** of them where the **Christ** was to be **born**. They told him, “In **Bethlehem** of **Judea**, for so it is **written** by the **prophet**: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a **ruler** who will **shepherd** my people **Israel**.’” Then **Herod** **summoned** the **wise men** **secretly** and **ascertained** from them what time the **star** had **appeared**. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and **search** **diligently** for the **child**, and when you have found him, **bring** me **word**, that I too may come and **worship** him.” After listening to the **king**, they went on their way. And **behold**, the star that they had seen when it **rose** went before them until it came to **rest** **over** the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they **rejoiced** **exceedingly** with **great** **joy**.



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brrrrrr!



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 	2 NO School Worship & Music 3 pm	3 Chapel 8:05 am Worship & Music 3 pm	4 School Board 5:30 pm Properties 7 pm	5	6 Epiphany	
Worship Service 9:30 am Baptism of our Lord	7 Stewardship 5:30 pm	8	9 Council 7 pm	10 Chapel 8:05 am Quilters 1 pm	11	12	13
Worship Service 9:30 am	14	15 NO School	16	17 Chapel 8:05 am	18	19 End of 2nd Marking period 1/2 day of school - dismiss at 11:00 am	20
Worship Service 9:30 am	21	22 Newsletter deadline	23	24 Chapel 8:05 am Quilters 1 pm	25	26	27
Worship Service 9:30 am	28	29	30	31 Chapel 8:05 am		